



AN ASSASSIN'S CREED[®] SERIES

VAN LENTE • CALERO

APR '16
COVER A

TEMPLARS





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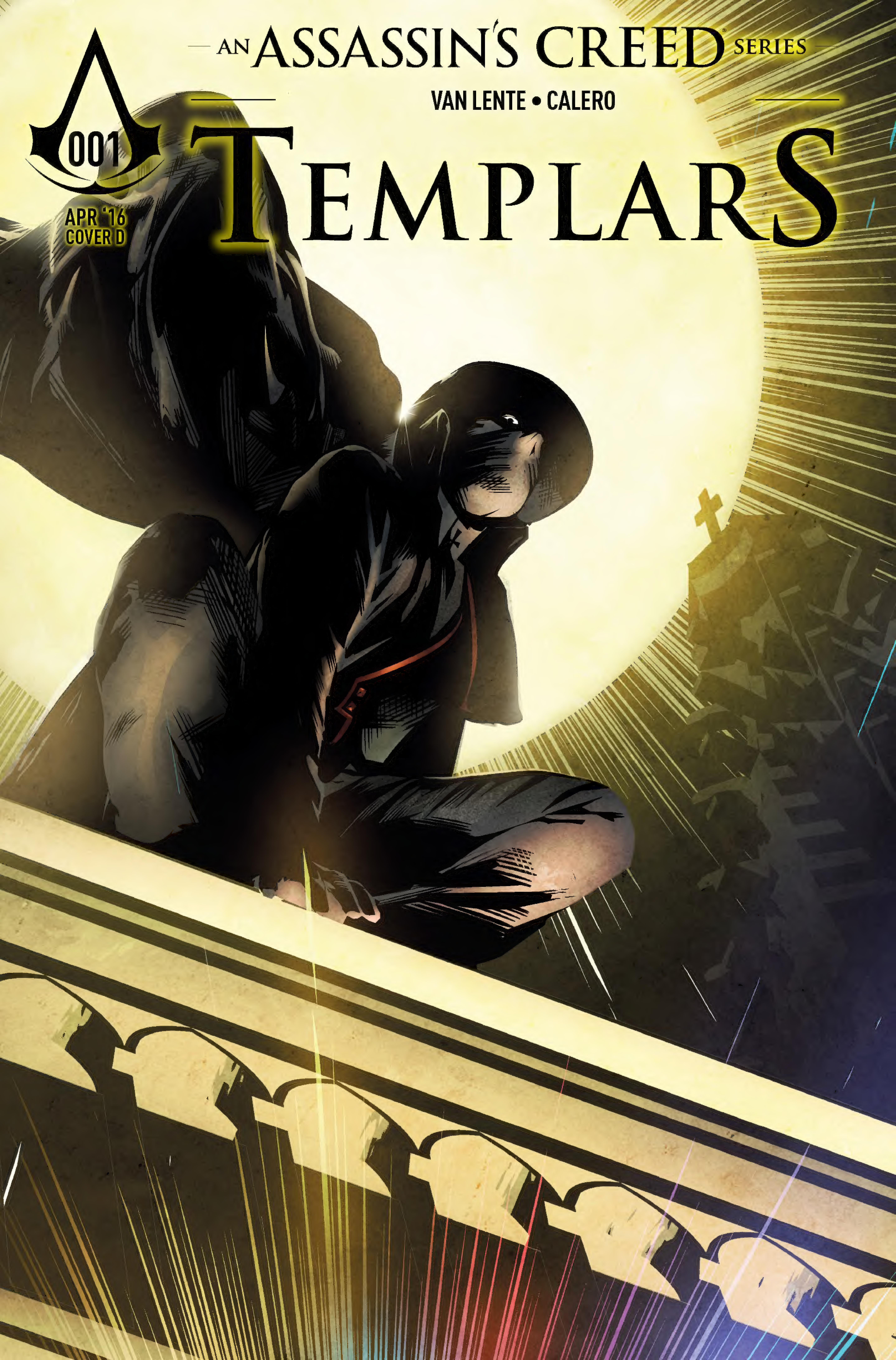
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ASSASSIN'S CREED TEMPLARS

BLACK CROSS

The Order of the Templars has sought the betterment of humanity for centuries, guiding it through wars and peace, famines and feasts.

But corruption can weaken even the strongest of citadels, and for the Templars to maintain order, they need a paragon of justice, honor and fealty...

They need the Black Cross...



Templars #1: Black Cross, April 2016.
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London, England · February, 1927

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP



THANK YOU, GOOD PEOPLE, SO VERY MUCH.

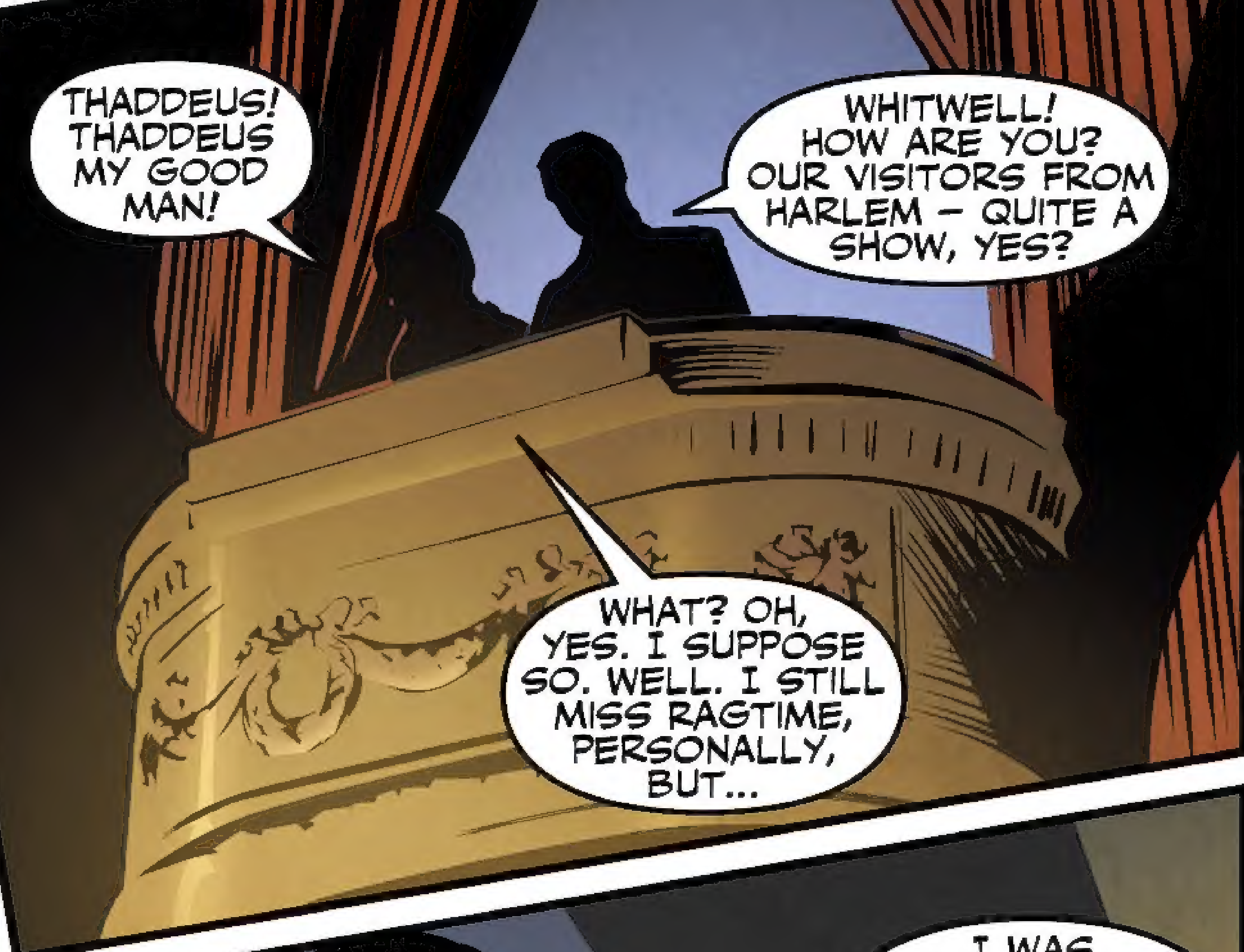
THE BOYS AND I ARE GOING TO TAKE A SHORT BREAK, THEN WE'LL BE BACK WITH MORE.



THADDEUS! THADDEUS MY GOOD MAN!

WHITWELL! HOW ARE YOU? OUR VISITORS FROM HARLEM - QUITE A SHOW, YES?

WHAT? OH, YES. I SUPPOSE SO. WELL. I STILL MISS RAGTIME, PERSONALLY, BUT...

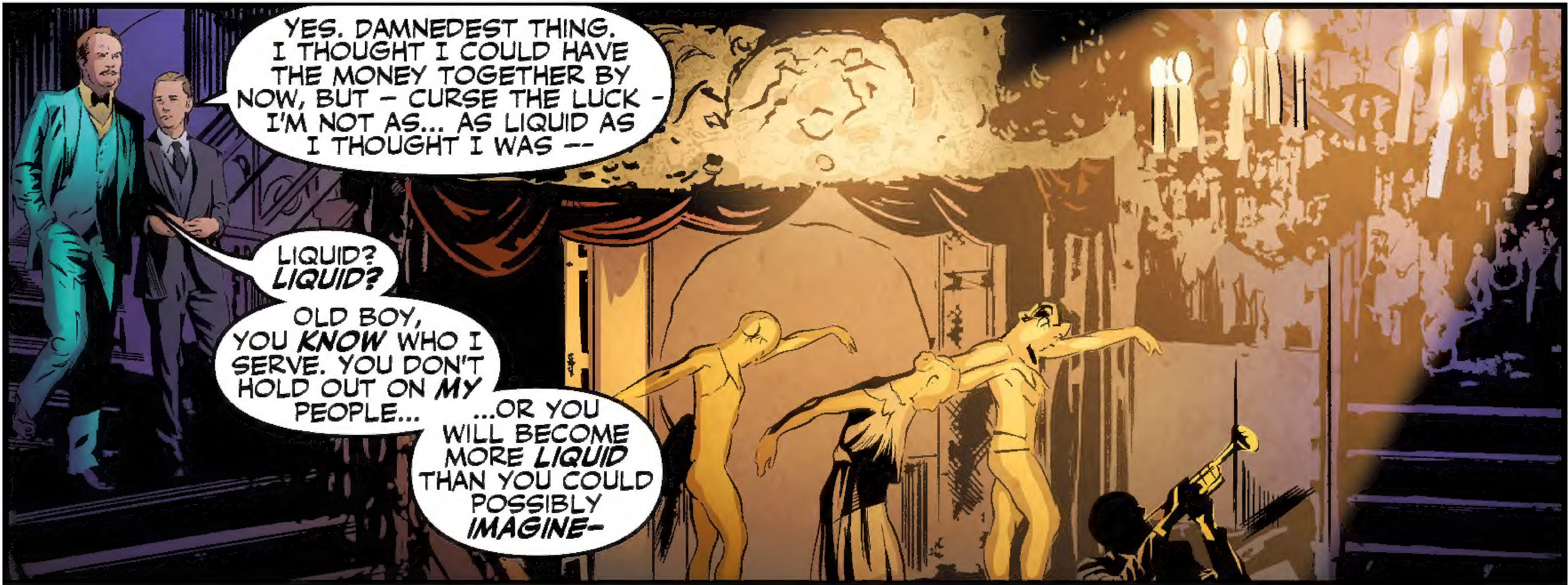


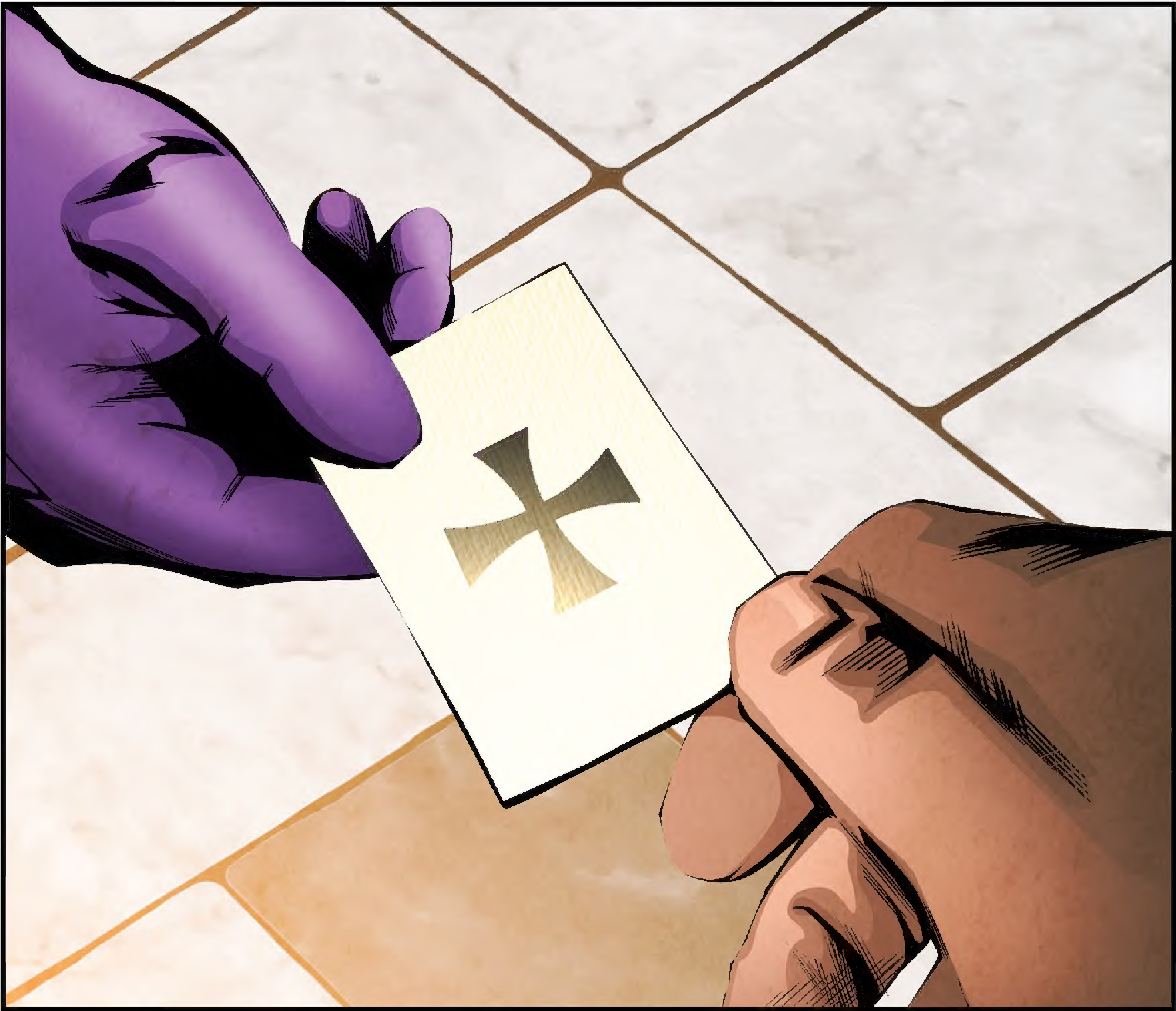
I WAS EXPECTING YOU THREE DAYS AGO, OLD CHAP. I WAS WORRIED YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE ME COME LOOK FOR YOU.

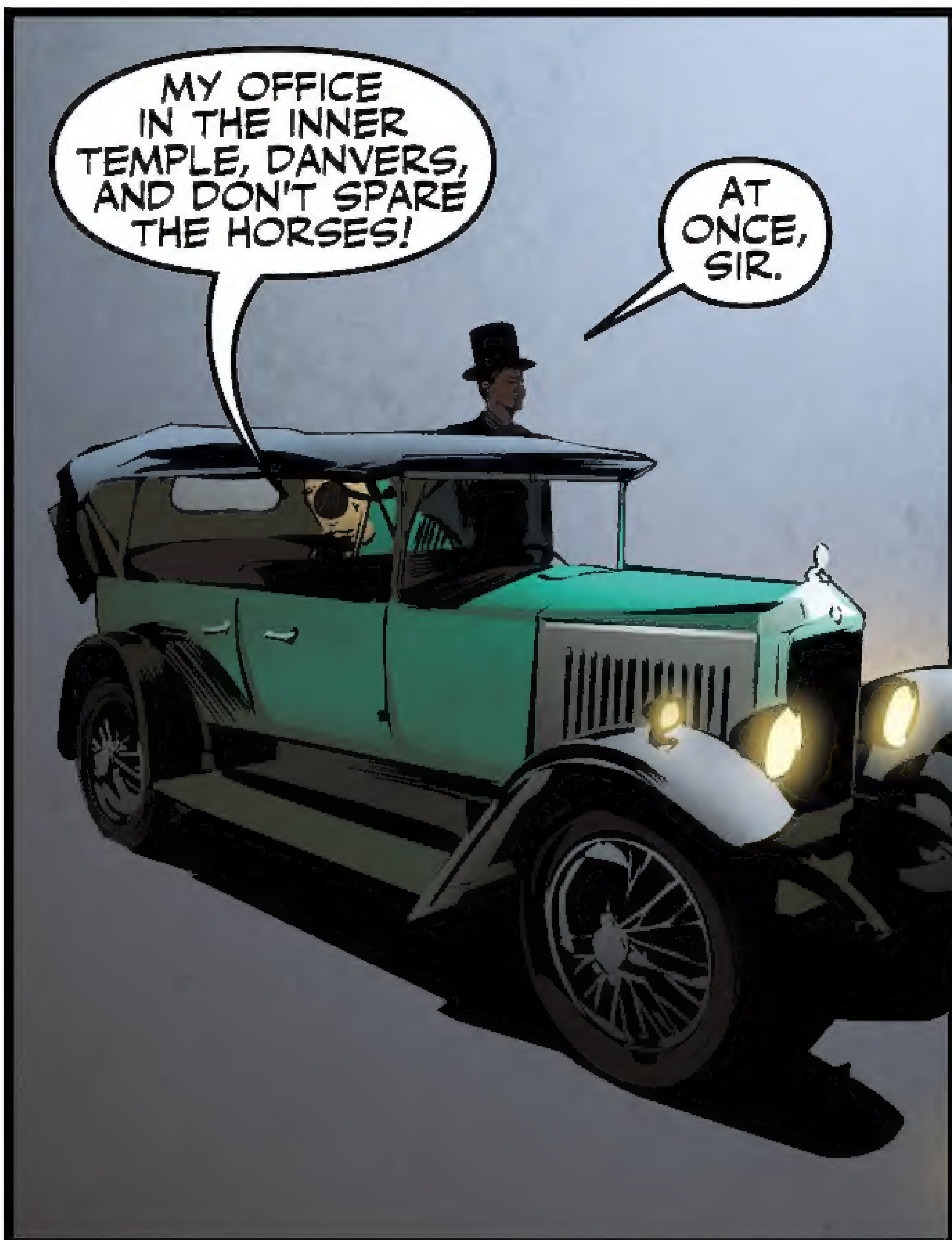


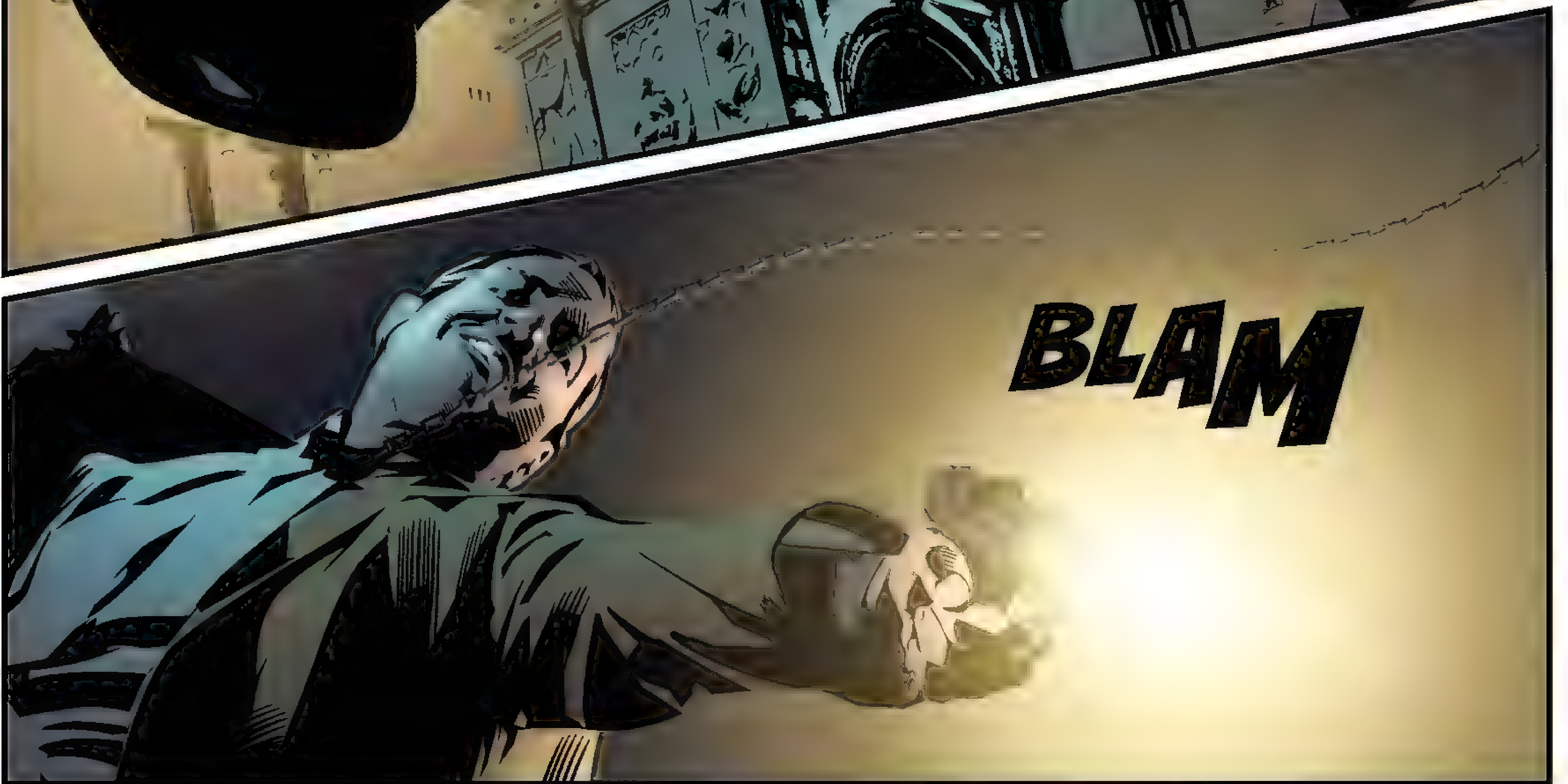
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO COME LOOK FOR YOU.















...LEARNING
THE **BOGEYMAN**
IS **REAL**.



THADDEUS
GIFT.

EMBEZZLER.
RAKE. SHYLOCK.



EERRK!

YOU HAVE
BETRAYED YOUR
VOWS.

YOU HAVE
STOLEN FROM
YOUR ORDER AND
TRADED ON ITS GOOD
NAME TO ENRICH
YOURSELF.



WORST
OF ALL...

...YOU HAVE
LED ASTRAY THOSE
WAYWARD SOULS
WHOM WE WOULD
HAVE LED TOWARD
THE LIGHT.

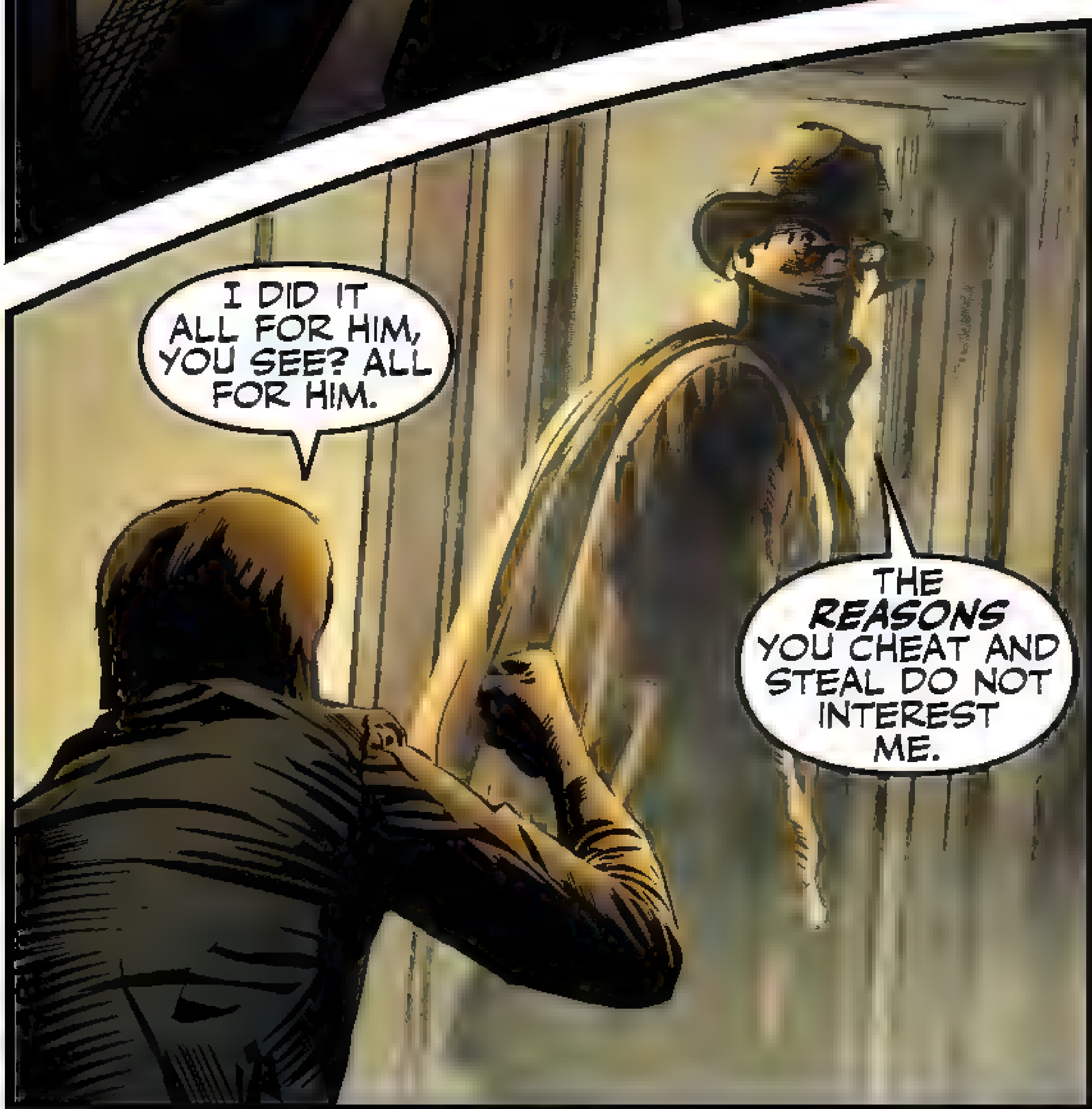
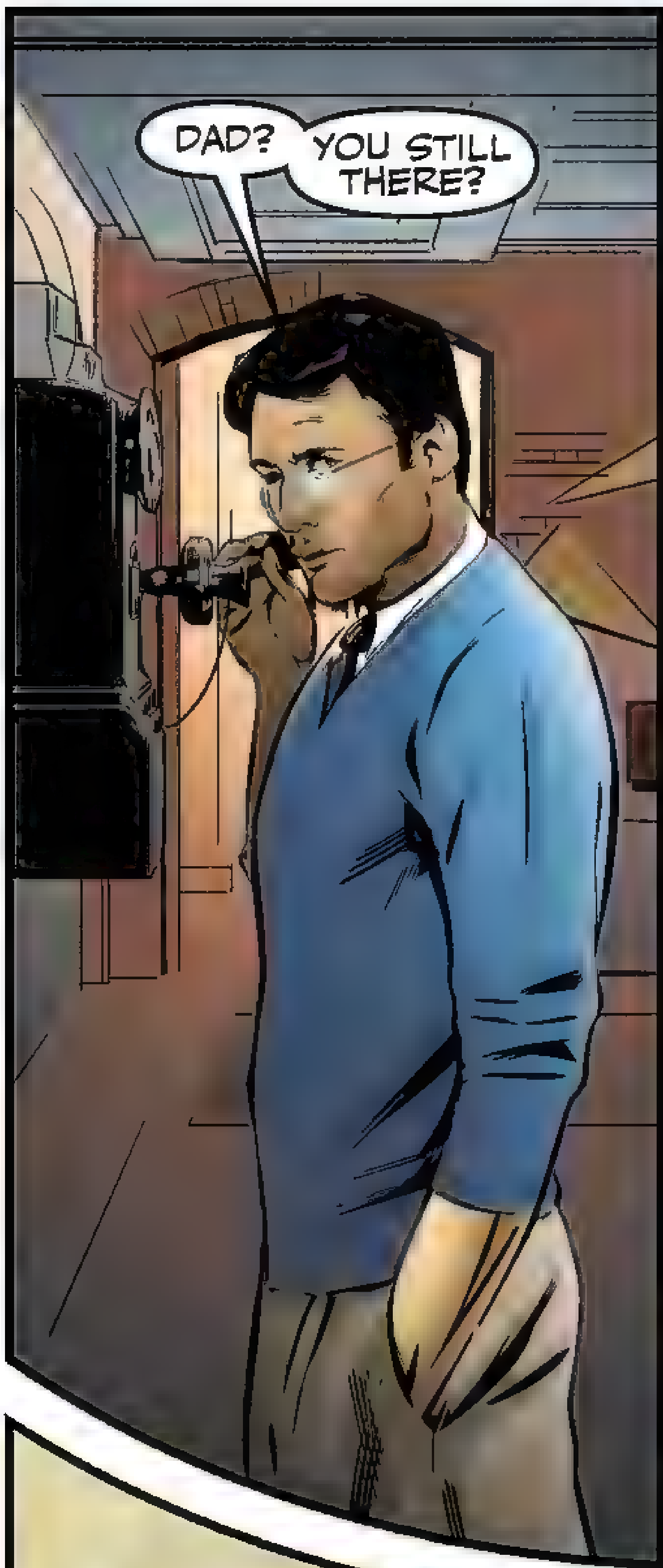


THANK YOU FOR
CONTACTING THE
CO-CONSPIRATORS
IN YOUR "PONZI"
SCHEME.

ONE MAKES
ONESELF *KNOWN*
TO ONE'S PREY SO
HE MAY LEAD YOU
TO HIS *LAIR*.

HELLO?







YOU
THINK THEY'LL
REWARD YOU
IN THE END?
THE GRAND
MASTERS?

AAAGGH!

WHAT
A LOAD OF
BOLLOCKS!



THAT'S WHAT I
THOUGHT AT FIRST,
BUT ALL THE **SECRETS**
THEY PROMISED WERE
ALWAYS JUST AROUND
THE NEXT BEND -
NEVER NOW. NEVER
HERE.

YOUR LIFE, LIVED IN
THE SHADOWS, AT THE
LEVEL OF WHISPERS,
WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN
THE END IF YOU HAVE
NO PEOPLE?

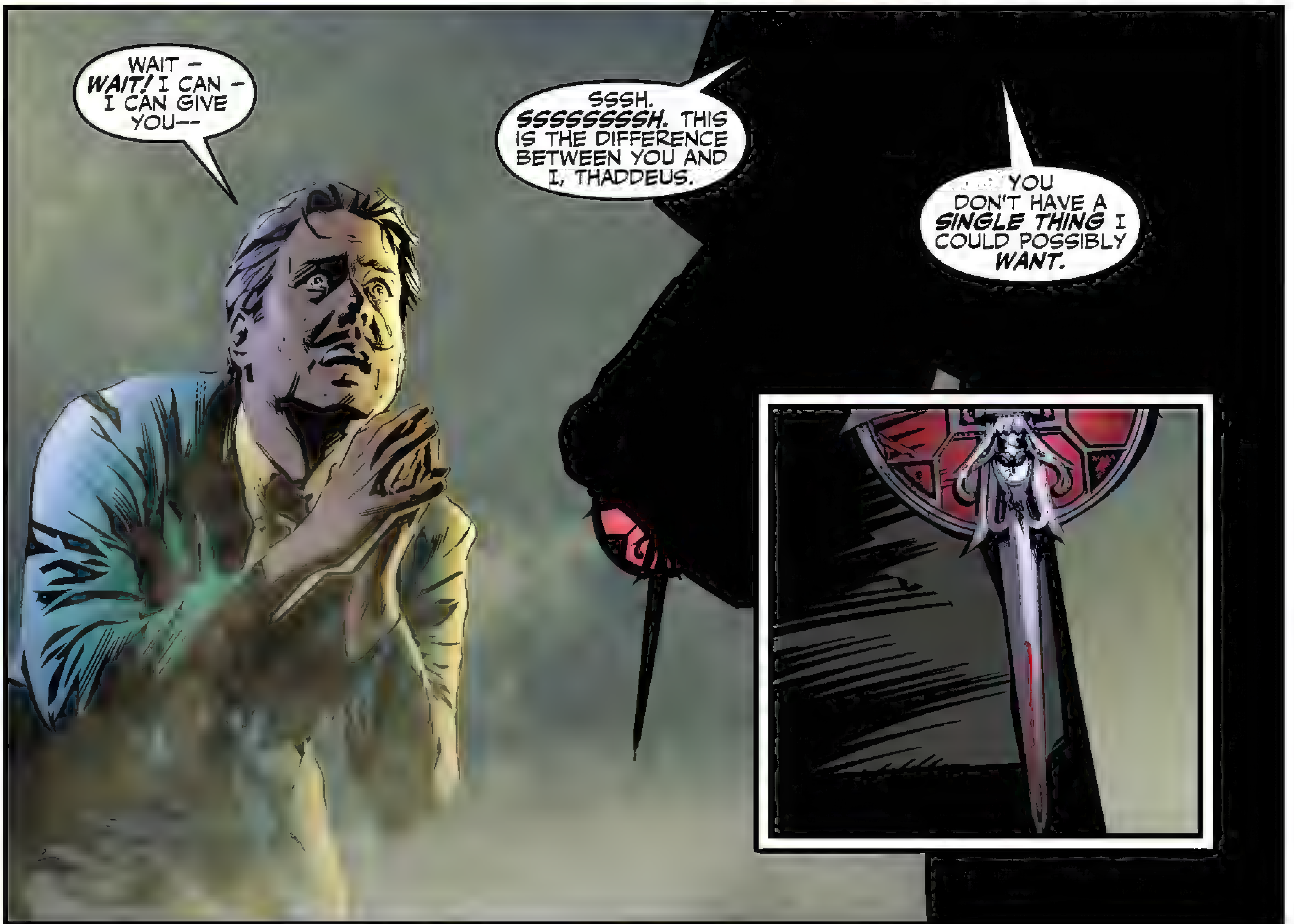


I SERVE
HUMANITY.

HUMANITY?
HUMANITY IS AN
ABSTRACTION.

INDIVIDUAL
HUMANS, THOUGH...
YOU HAVE NO HEART
FOR THEM.

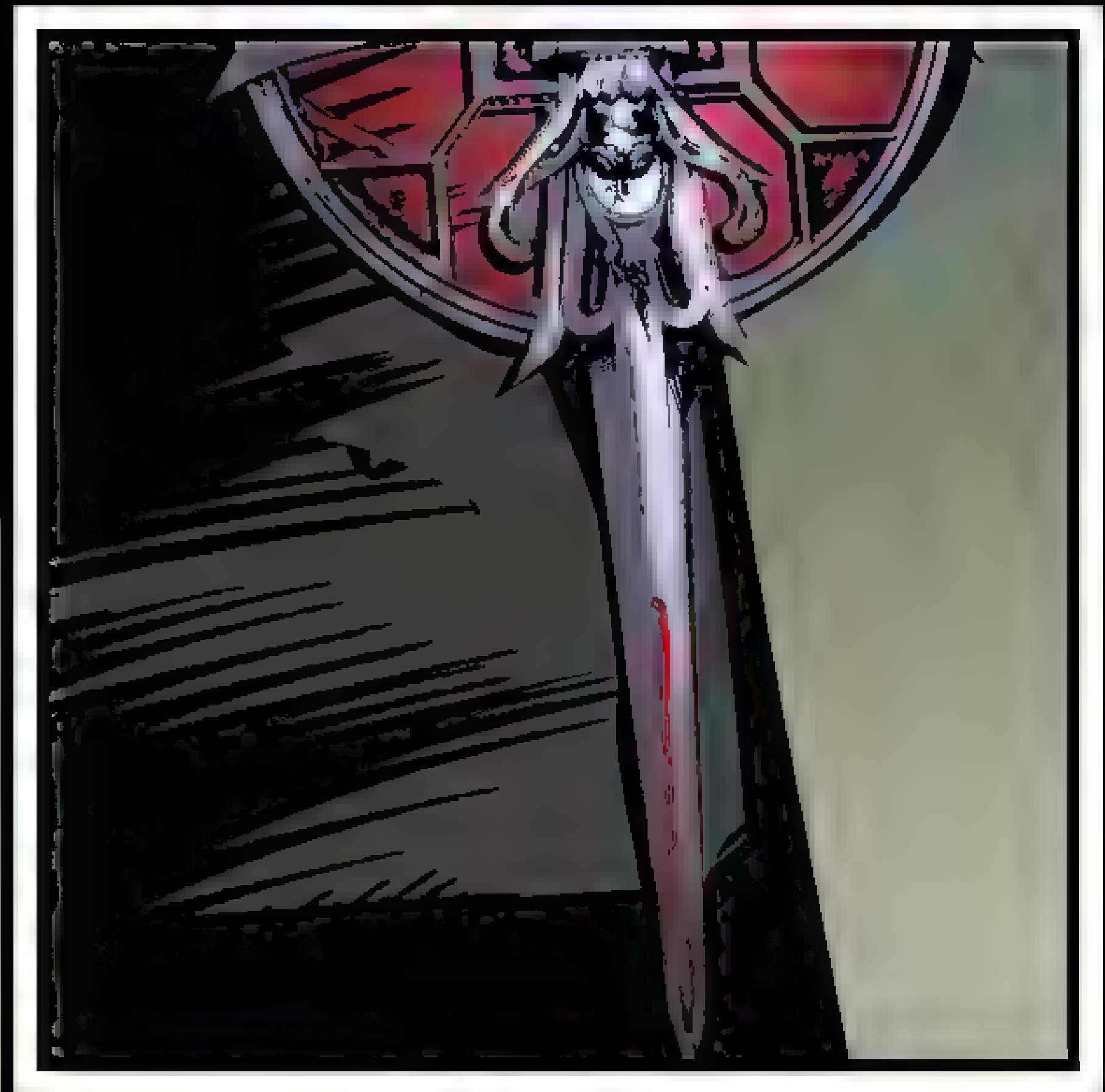
YOUR
CONCERN
FOR ME IS
TOUCHING.
AND
UNCONVINCING.

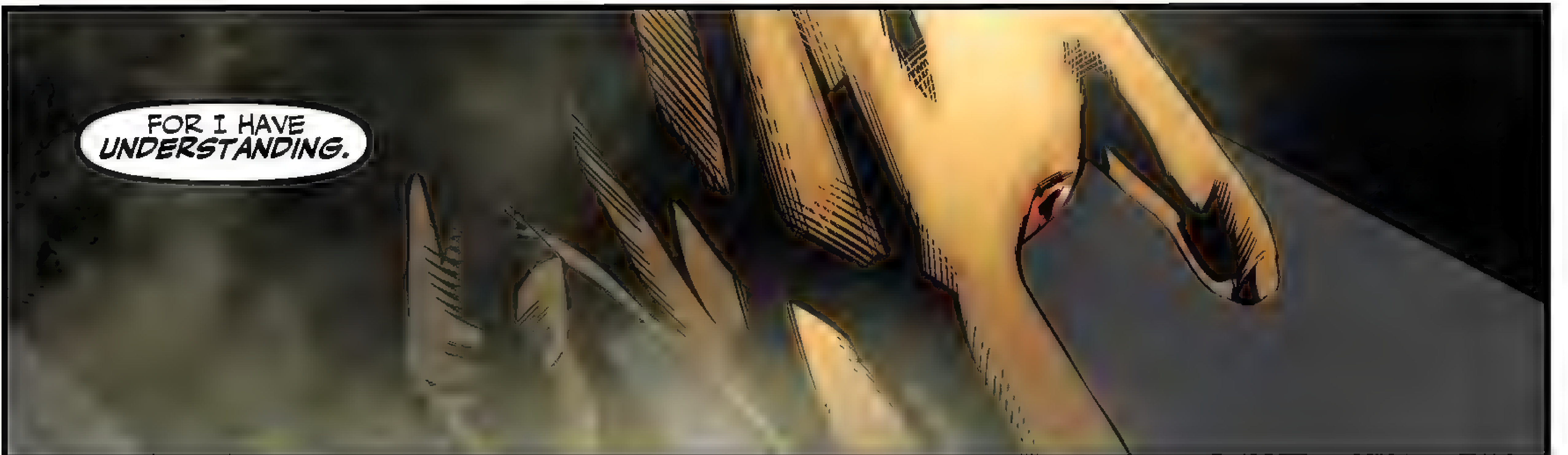


WAIT -
WAIT! I CAN -
I CAN GIVE
YOU--

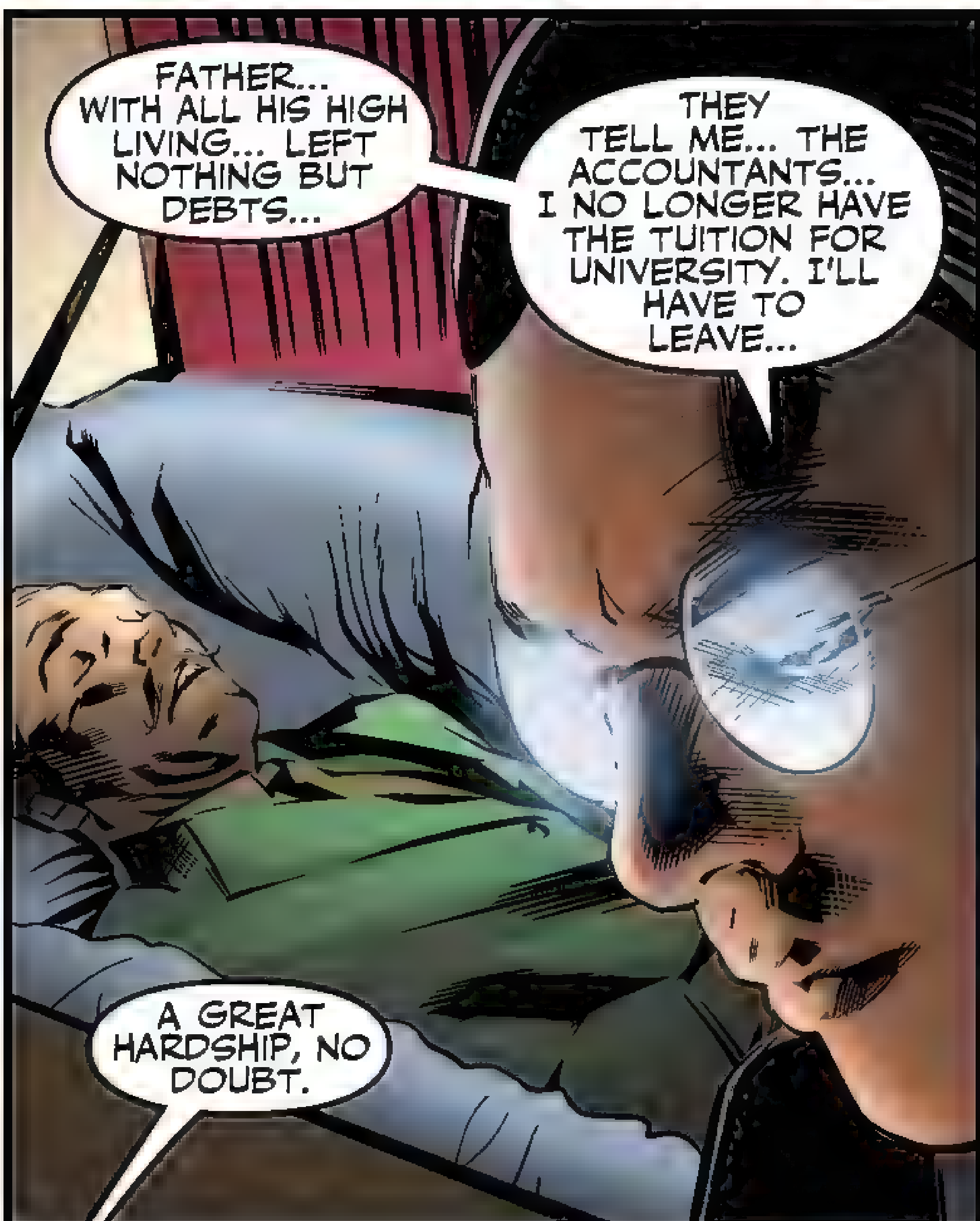
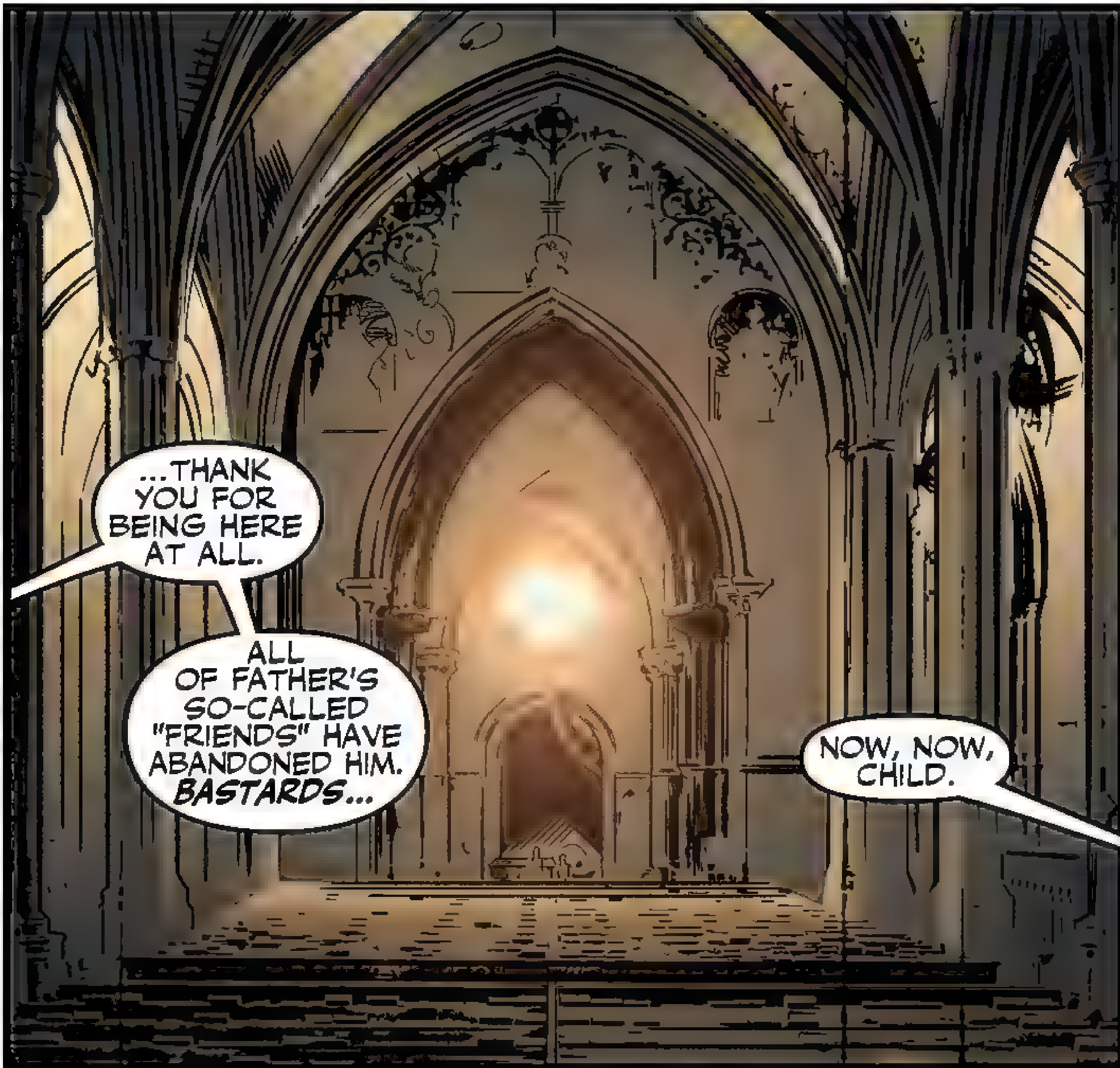
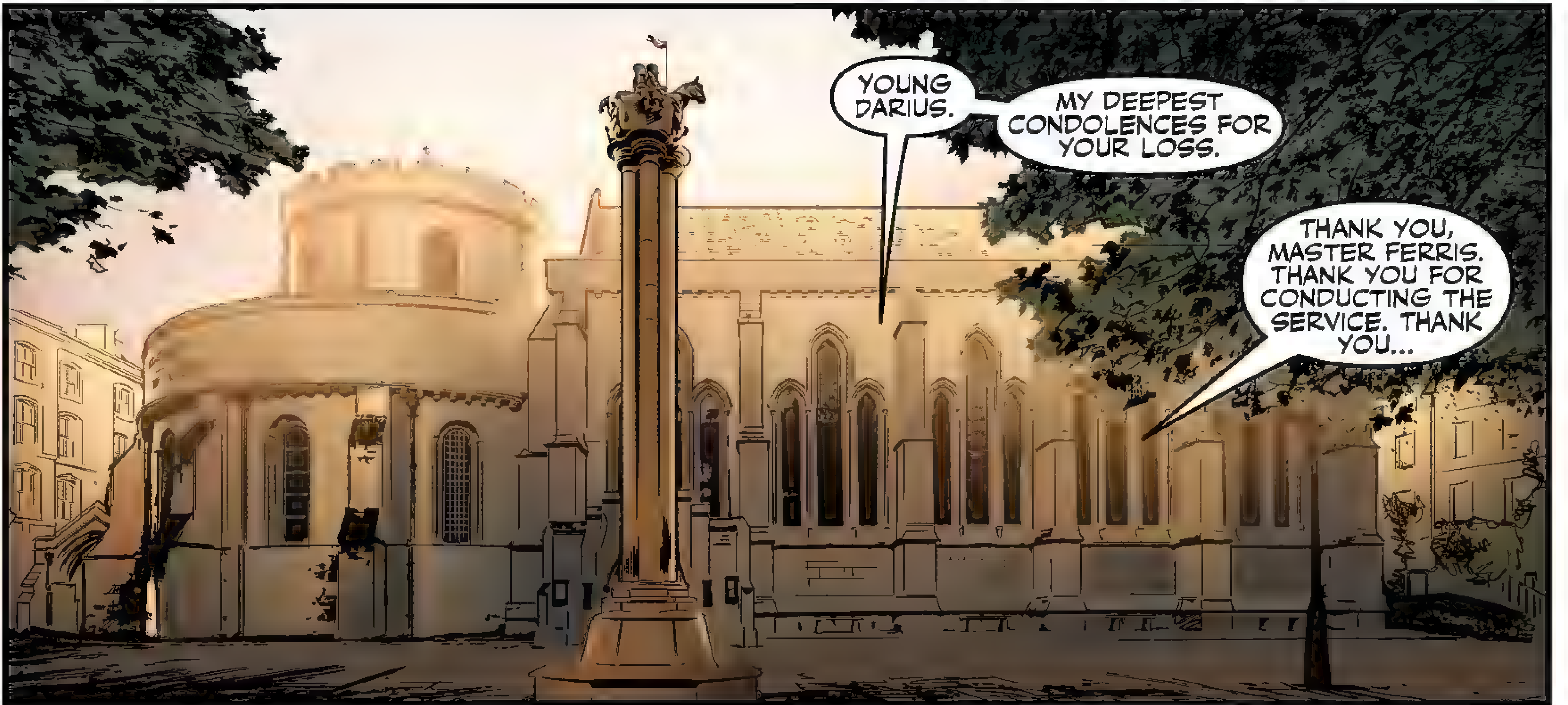
SSSH.
SSSSSSSSSH. THIS
IS THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN YOU AND
I, THADDEUS.

... YOU
DON'T HAVE A
SINGLE THING I
COULD POSSIBLY
WANT.





FOR I HAVE
UNDERSTANDING.





YOU ARE NOT YOUR FATHER, DARIUS. WE KNOW THAT.

I LOVED HIM, MASTER FERRIS. BUT HIS EXCESSES... THEY **BROKE** MOTHER... I KNEW THEY WOULD COME TO NO GOOD END...



AND SO YOU ARE BEING GIVEN THAT MOST PRECIOUS THING IN LIFE.

A **SECOND CHANCE.**

DO WHAT WE ASK OF YOU. PROVE YOUR WORTH, AND THE STAIN OF DISHONOR WILL BE WIPED FROM YOUR FAMILY'S NAME.



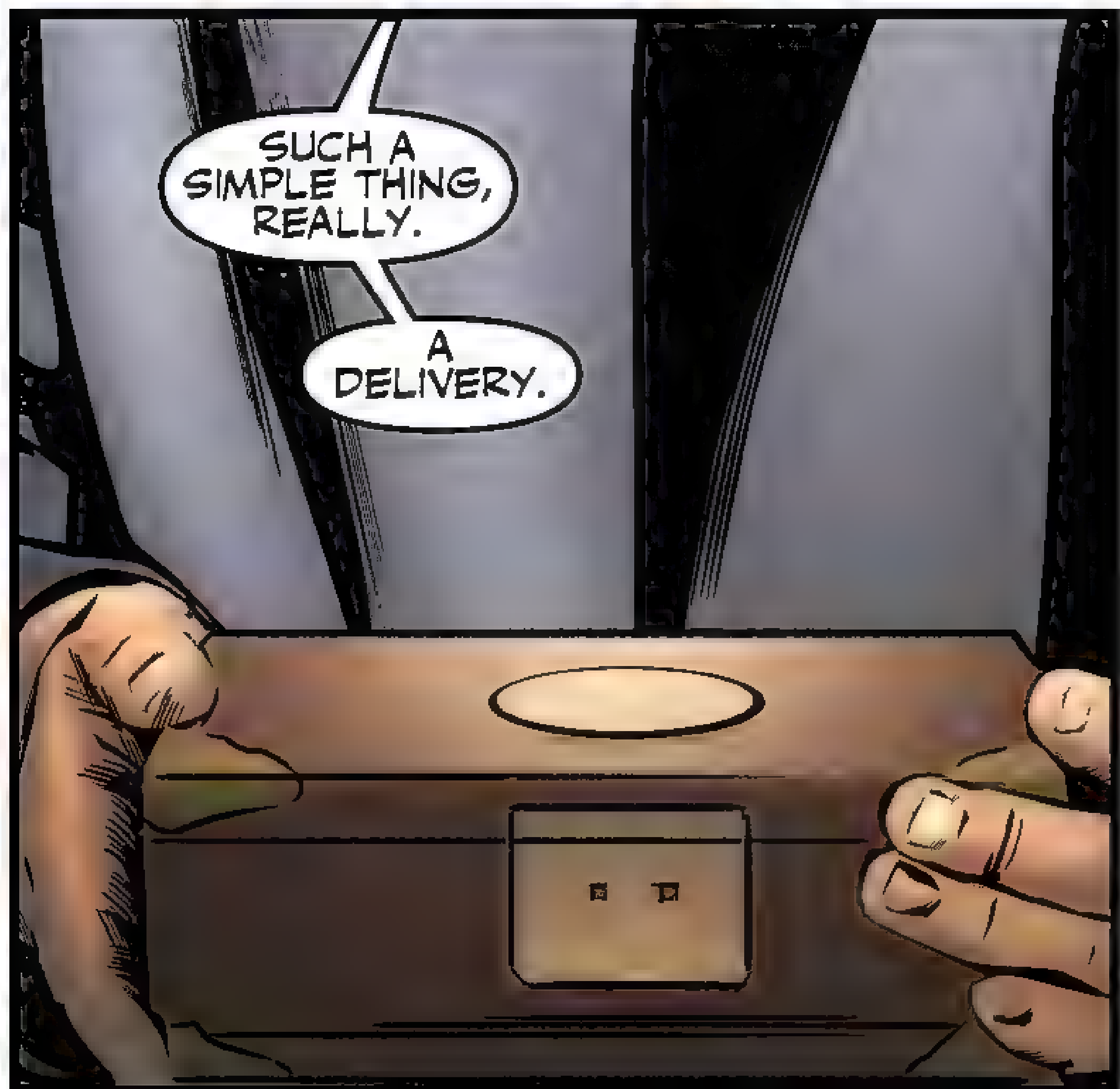
THERE WILL BE A UNIVERSITY DEGREE WAITING FOR YOU UPON YOUR RETURN - A **HALF DOZEN** DEGREES, SHOULD YOU WISH.

IT WILL MEAN ALL THE SAME, TO YOUR PROSPECTS.



BECAUSE YOU WILL BE ONE OF **US.**

WHAT... WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?



SUCH A SIMPLE THING, REALLY.

A DELIVERY.



"THIS PASSPORT NAMES YOU AS A CLERK IN THE MALTA BANK."

"AND THIS TICKET IS FOR A STEAMER THAT LEAVES TOMORROW. EAST."

"THE JOURNEY WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX WEEKS, BUT IT WILL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR CHALLENGES."

"HAVE NO ILLUSIONS: THIS IS A DANGEROUS MISSION WE HAVE ENTRUSTED TO YOU."

"WE HAVE LOST ALL FAITH IN THE SHANGHAI RITE. YOU CARRY THE LAST HOPE FOR THE ORDER'S PROSPECTS IN CHINA."

SHANGHAI, CHINA · APRIL, 1927

"AND DARIUS... YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW RIGHT NOW..."

"...NO ONE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU."







SEEN A GHOST,
HANDSOME?



MMM? OH...
I JUST... OUTSIDE
IS CHAOS... THERE'S
BLOOD ON MY
SHOES... **HUMAN**
BLOOD...

AND NO
ONE SEEMS
TO CARE! NO
WHITE MAN, AT
ANY RATE...

I PROMISE
TO CARE. FOR A
BOURBON.



OH! YES,
OF COURSE.
MY PLEASURE.
YOUR NAME
IS...

YOU CAN
CALL ME **ROO**.
AN AMERICAN WHO
COULDN'T MANAGE MY
ACTUAL NAME CAME
UP WITH THAT. YOU
AMERICAN?



ENGLISH,
ACTUALLY...

I'LL
PRETEND
TO KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE.



WHAT BRINGS
YOU TO SHANGHAI,
MISTER...

YOU CAN
CALL ME **DARIUS**. OF
THE MALTA BANKING
CORPORATION.

THE PEOPLE
I WORK FOR... WE
MAINTAIN **ORDER** IN
THE WORLD.



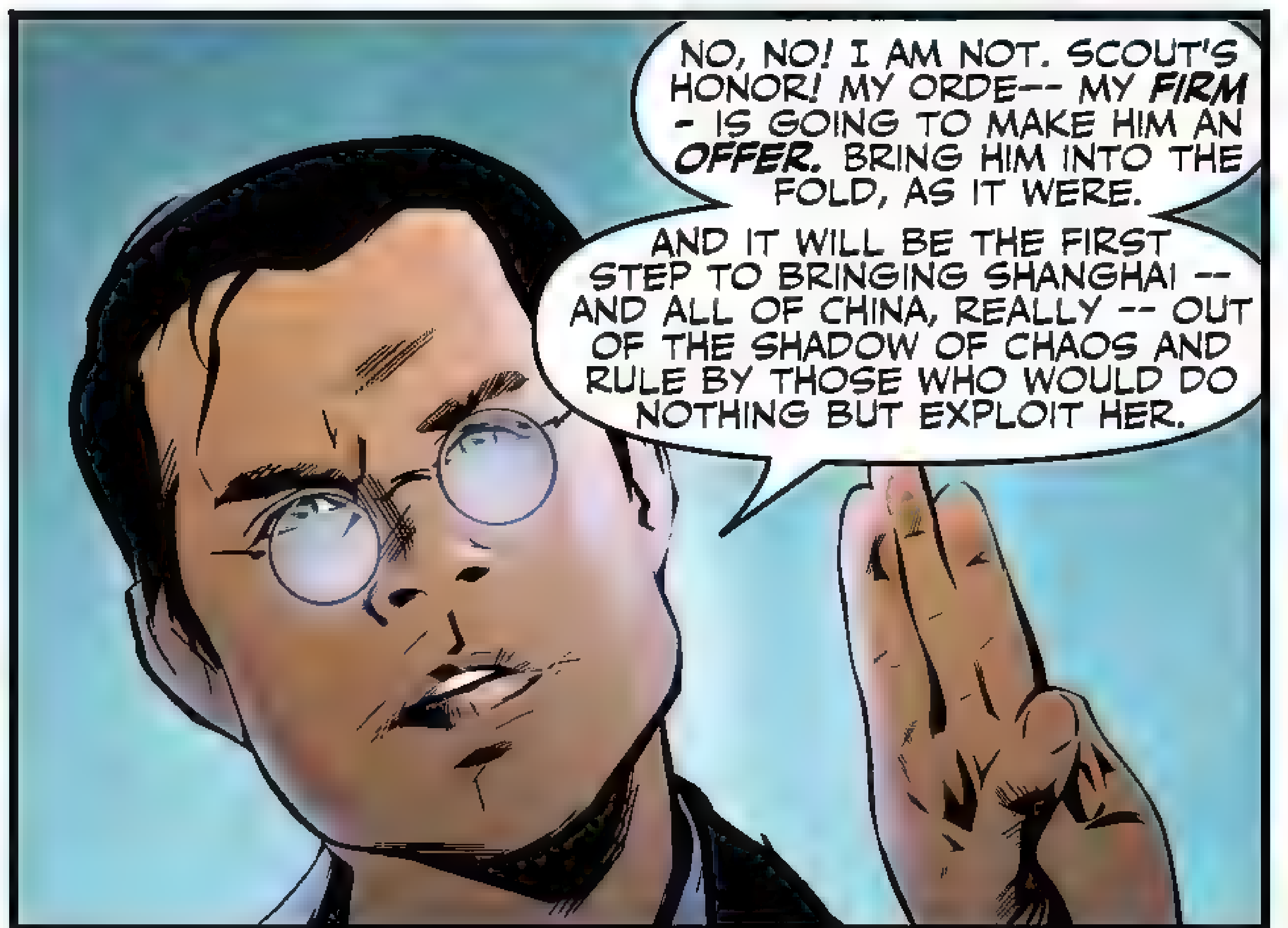
THE...
BANK?

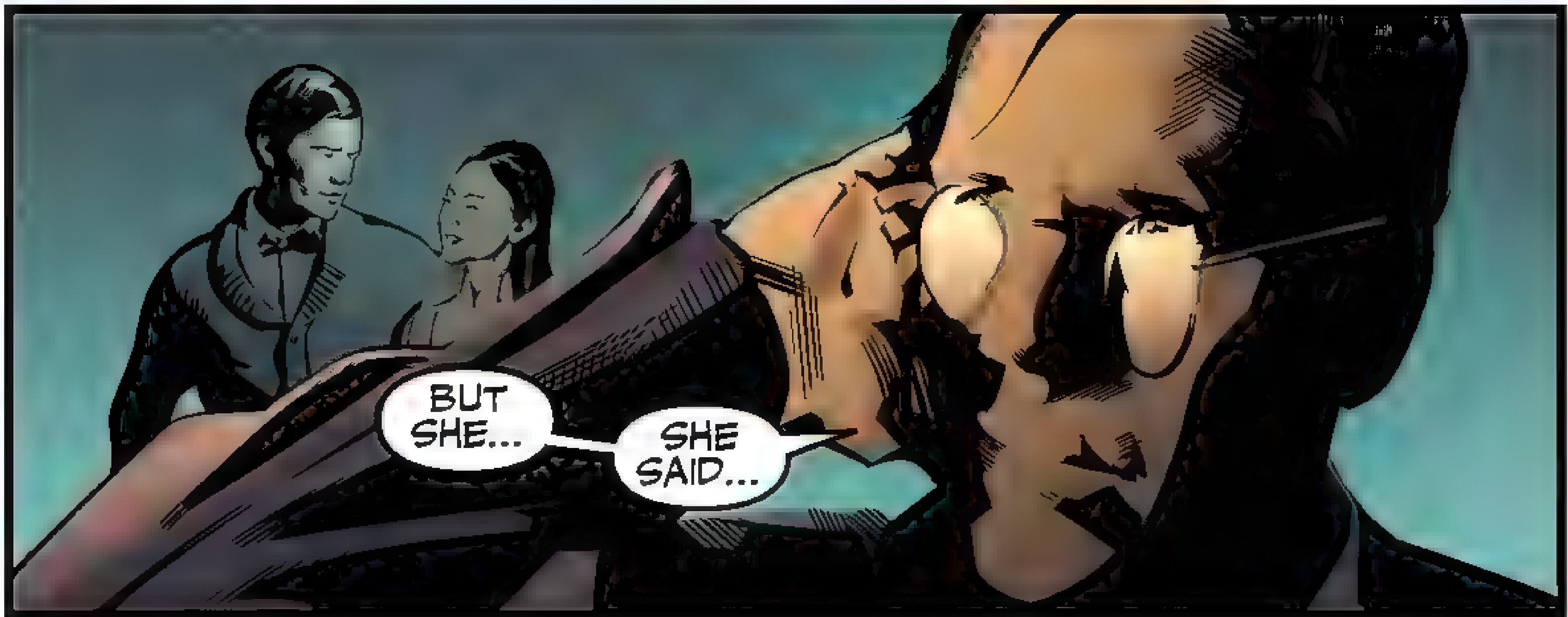
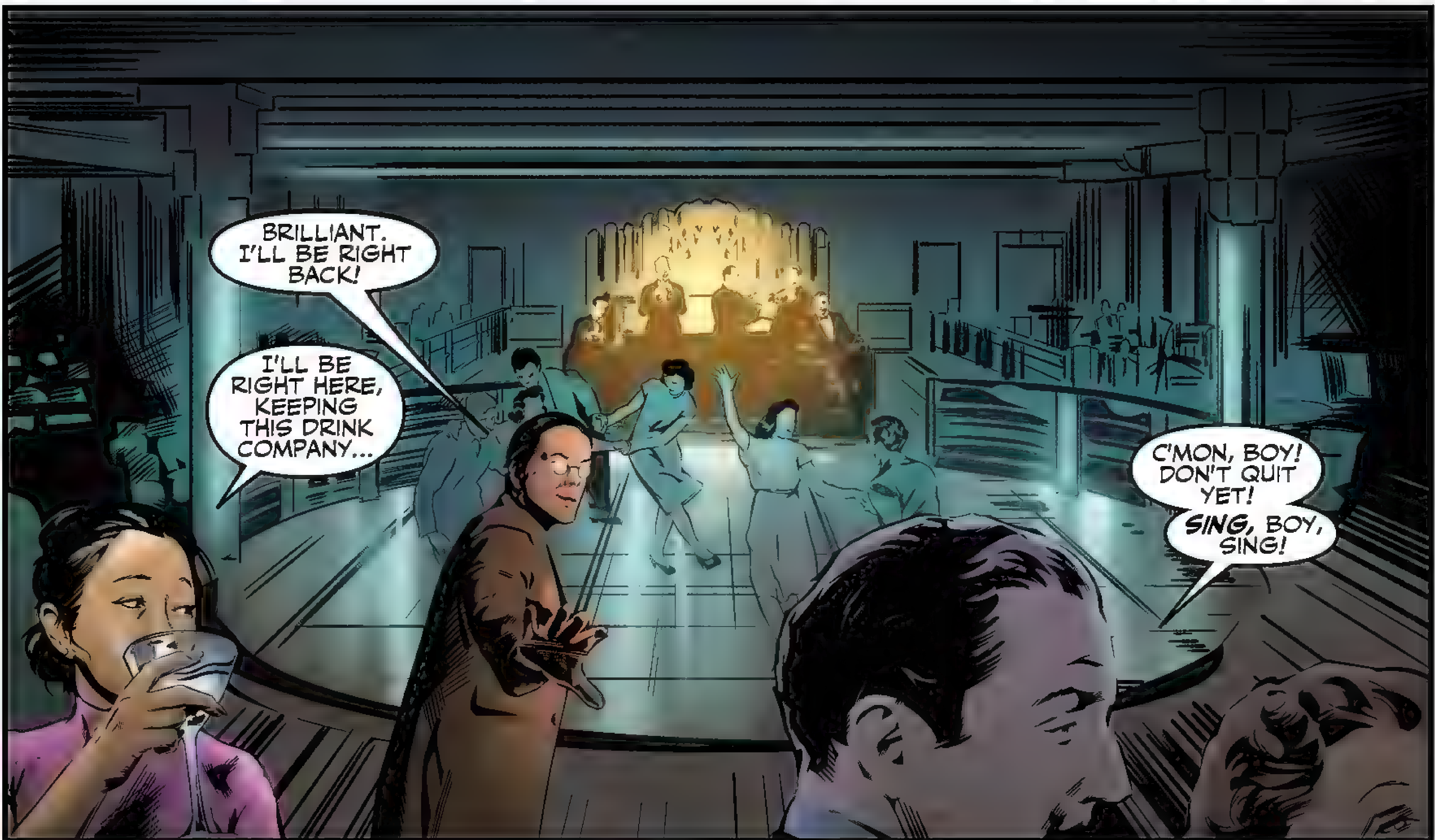
YES... THE
BANK. WE HAVE FOR
CENTURIES. OPENLY
FOR THE FIRST FEW,
THEN BEHIND THE
SCENES...

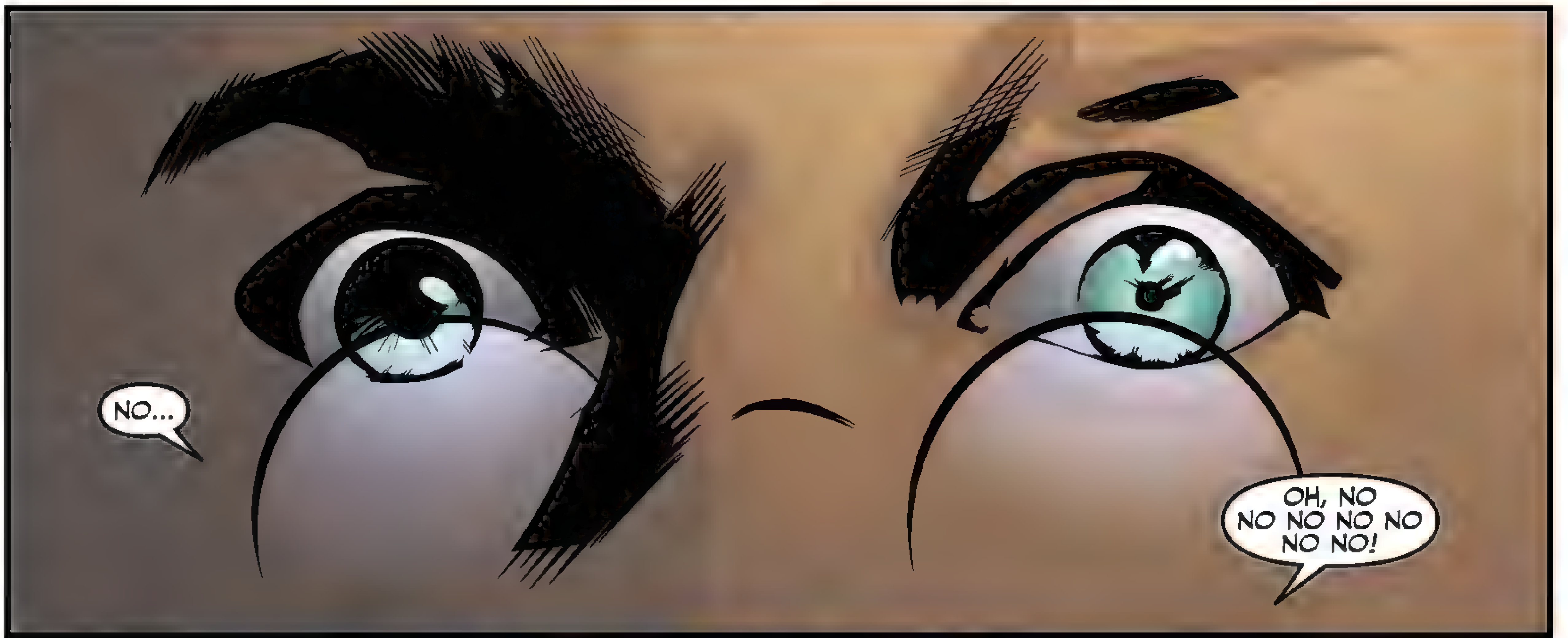


THERE'S
ORDER IN THE
WORLD?

I HADN'T
NOTICED.







CCHHKK

AAAGGGGHH!

FUMIER!

DO YOU
KNOW WHO
I WORK
FOR?!

THAT'S THE
POINT.

WHAT -
WHAT DO YOU
WANT, DEAD
MAN?

I
WANT...

...I
WANT YOU
TO *SING*.

TO BE CONTINUED...

ASSASSIN'S CREED® TEMPLARS

BLACK CROSS

PART 1 OF 5

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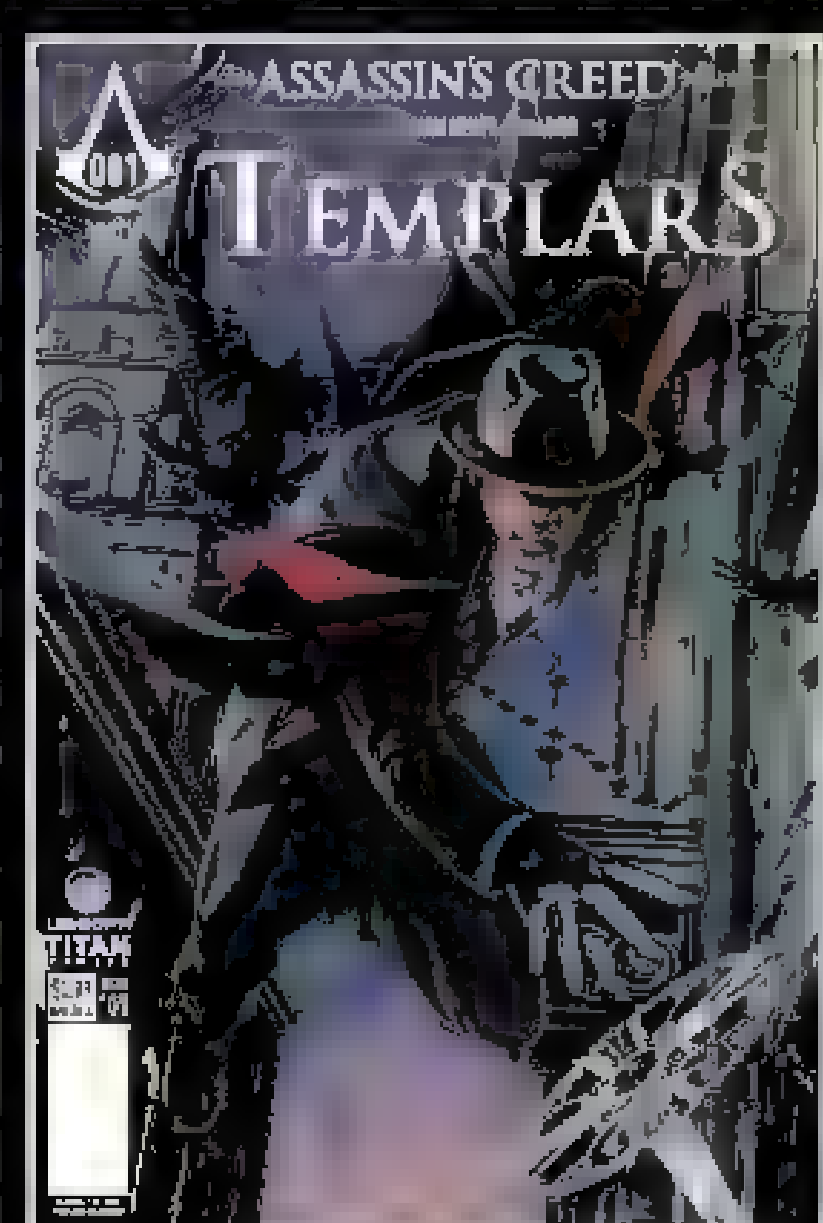
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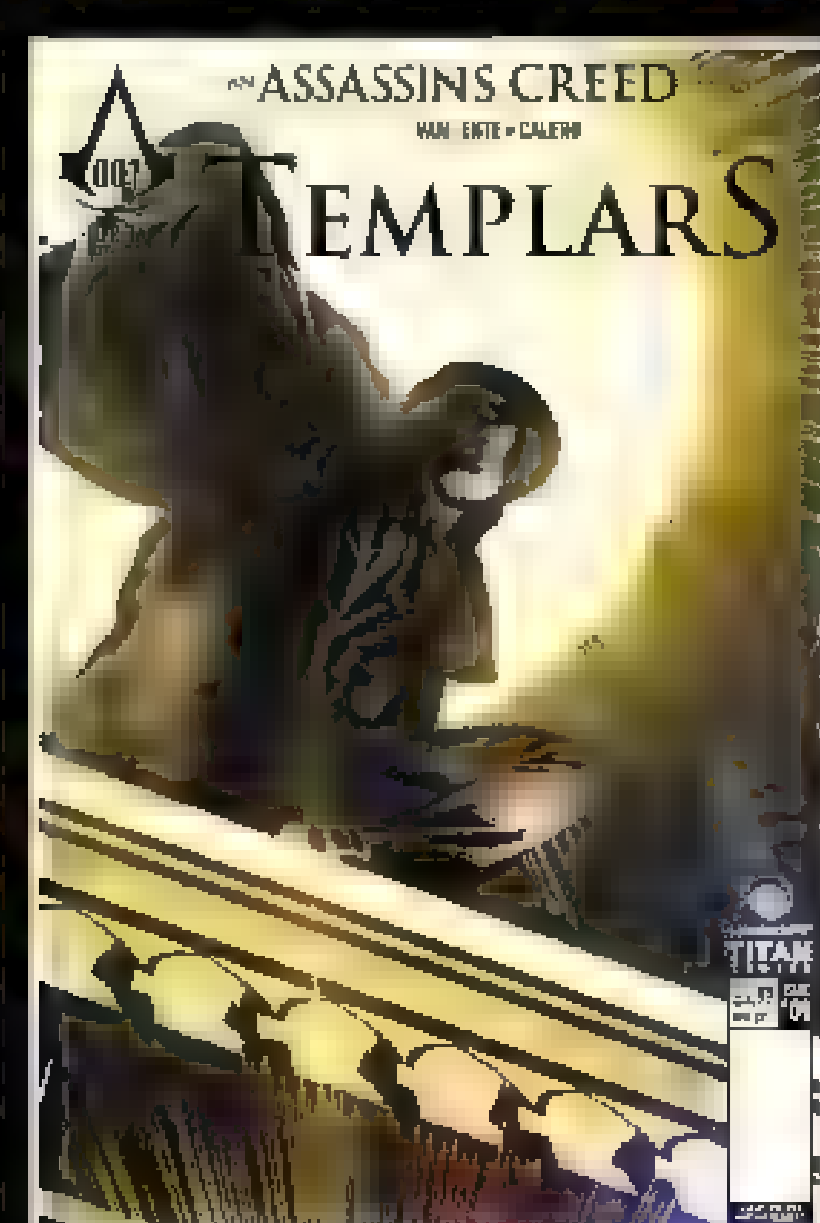
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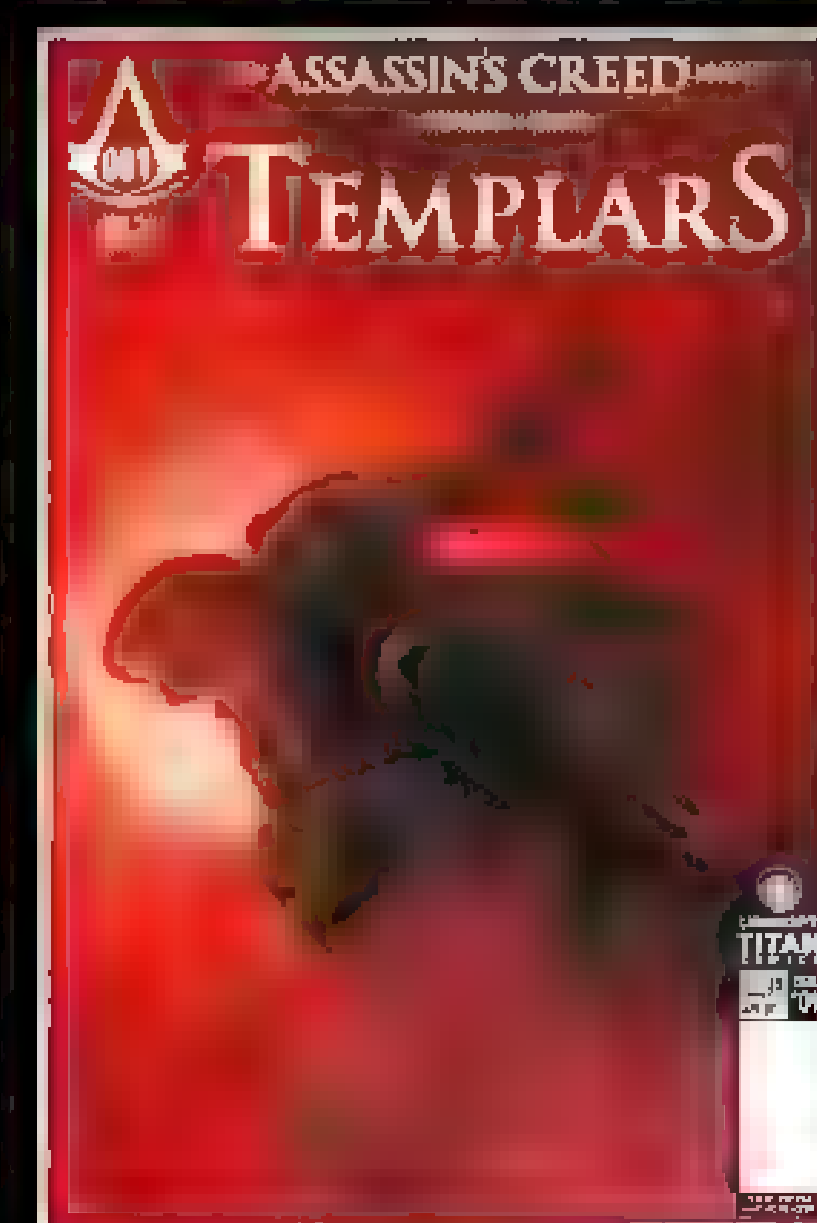
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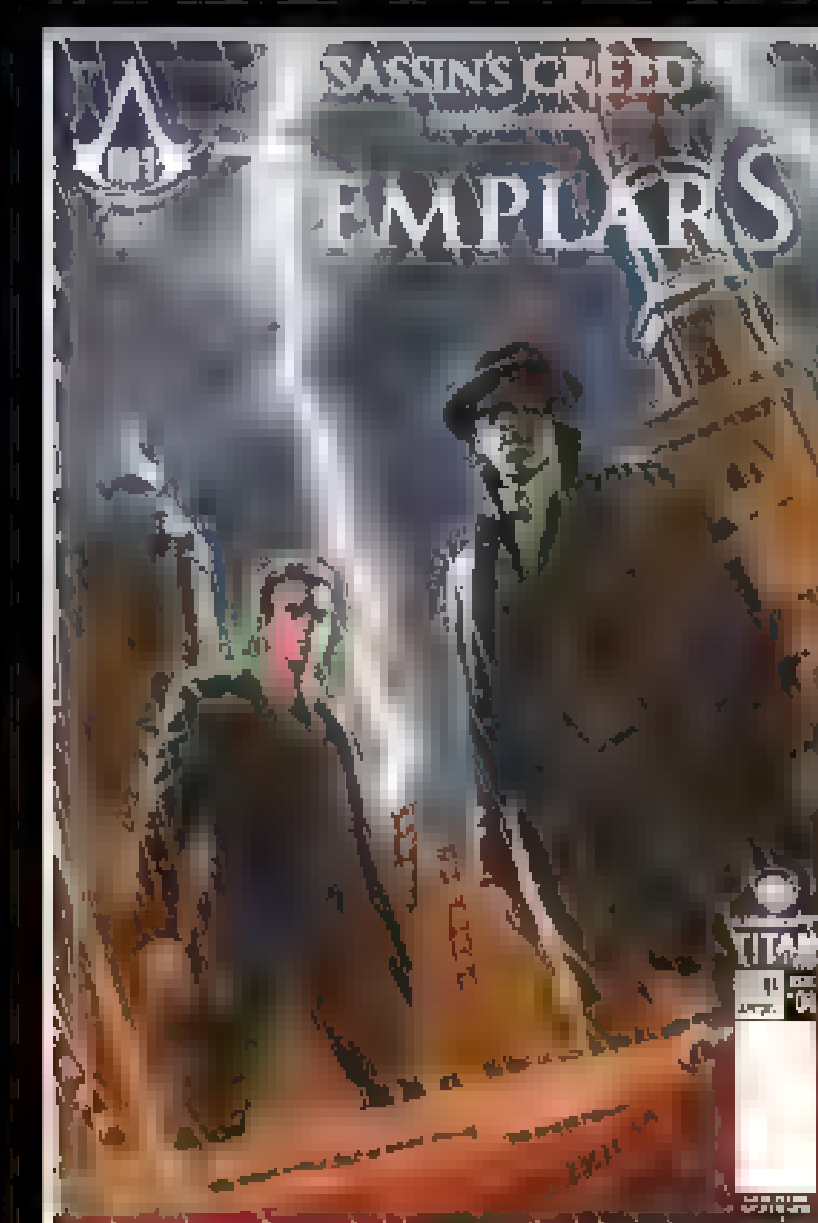
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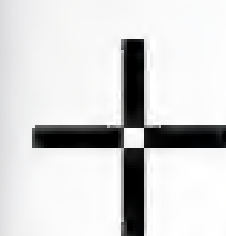
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ISSUE



SMOKE ON THE WATER...

Utterly thrown by his encounter with the beautiful Roo, Darius puts his faith in Black Cross to get him out of troubled waters... but the corruption in the Shanghai Rite runs deep. With civil unrest filling the streets of the city, and murmurings suggesting his presence is more unwelcome than usual, will Black Cross be able to uncover the truth before it's too late?



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ASSASSIN'S CREED TEMPLARS

THE ORDER THAT WOULD SAVE HUMANKIND...

The Order of the Knights Templar is a secret organization that has operated globally for millennia.

While the story of the Order's origin has been lost to the sands of time, it is believed to have taken an active role in the shaping of humanity since it freed itself from enslavement to the mysterious progenitor race known as The Ones Who Came Before.

The Templars have worked tirelessly towards a better future for humanity, and have been instrumental in bringing about significant change and progress in the world. However, it is this very desire for a better world, and the methods by which the Templars believe it will be attained, that puts them in direct opposition to the Assassin Brotherhood.

The Templars believe that it is through control and guidance that humankind will achieve perfection – in essence, freedom through control – whereas the Assassins believe it is through individual self-expression and open access to all knowledge that humankind will reach its full potential. These two ideologies have a similar goal; it is the method by which they intend to reach it that differs, and has caused centuries of bloodshed.

The Templars ideology has attracted some of the greatest minds of all ages to their cause, the most remarkable and successful of which have often been men and women of science, and they have suffered greatly for their beliefs. As visionaries, the ideas they championed were usually significantly before their time, which left them vulnerable to attack and censorship. Never was this more true than during the Dark Ages in Europe, where countless brilliant minds were silenced and made to suffer for their foresight.

In the 12th century, the leading Templars were able to align themselves with the Church, and so were able to pursue their agendas free from persecution. However, their main goal, the betterment of humanity through scientific and technical knowledge, was never made public, and remained a closely guarded secret. For almost two hundred years, the Templars were able to steer a course for humankind that would bring about great advances in medicine, the military, even in basic living conditions. They were influencers, advising kings and emperors on how best to rule.

They were also under attack. Their numbers were being systematically


depleted by the Assassin Brotherhood. The issue came to a head in the 13th century when the Templars were denounced as heretics, and forced to disband. This decision was taken by the last publicly recognized Grand Master of the Order of the Knights Templar, Jaques de Molay. Making the ultimate sacrifice, he was burned at the stake, letting everyone think that the Templar Order would die with him. Unbeknownst to them, however, de Molay had selected nine trusted members of the Order to go forth into the world and spread the Templars philosophy, armed with their knowledge of The Ones Who Came Before. In doing this, de Molay ensured that the Order would live on, and could continue to work towards their ultimate goal.

The Order entered what they now consider to be a dark age. Despondency and corruption were rife, with leadership coming from those who had little respect for the original altruistic philosophy. Despite this, the Templars were still at the vanguard of scientific development during this time, and loyal members worked tirelessly toward their ultimate goal. The European colonization of the New World gave the Templars the opportunity to recover and rebuild, and the chance to retaliate and turn the tables on their foe, wiping out much of the Brotherhood leadership, and destroying any Assassin influence in the region.

The Templar Order's goals have evolved over time, with the dawning of the 20th century marking a turning point for the organization.

Following decades of innovation and invention, culminating in the astounding technological and scientific advancements seen during the Industrial Revolution, the Templars recognized that continued progress at that rate could lead them to their goal faster and more successfully than they had ever dreamed. Capitalism would be the tool that would allow the leaps in development that the Templars knew were within their reach.

In the uncertain days before the Second World War, Abstergo Industries was formed. For the second time in its history, the Templars had a public face, although the true aims of the Order, and the very existence of the Order itself, remained a secret. Only a few employed by Abstergo were Templars. Through the work of its many divisions, Abstergo would provide the means by which the Templars' notion of a perfectly functioning capitalist society could be brought about. As a multinational corporation with concerns spanning all areas of modern life, Abstergo was the perfect front for the Templar Order to pursue their agenda.

While their methods and goals have evolved, at its root the Templar Order believes in the betterment of humanity through technological and scientific advancement. For centuries uncounted, the search for relics left by The Ones Who Came Before, called Pieces of Eden, has occupied the Order. Significant resources have been devoted to acquiring as many of these unique artifacts as possible, in order that the technology they possess is harnessed and can be used for the greater good of humanity. 

Abstergo 

